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CAFÉ DECORATION.

THE interior fittings of the modern café are made with strict regard to comfort and to the effect likely to be produced upon the callers. The cobweb-decorated café of a decade since would not be considered at all proper now-a-days, nor would the class of customers that furnish the patronage of the present resort be at all satisfied with that primitive sort of adornment. We have bar-rooms and cafés in our city that are as handsomely decorated and as plentifully supplied with rare and costly examples of bric-a-brac, as any private parlor can be.

This disposition had its humble beginning in the introduction of stained glass into saloon windows, a feature that was so favorably received that it led the taste on to more extensive and elaborate improvements.

Our illustration upon the opposite page shows a design for a café that might be connected with a theatre or hotel, and furnished in an elaborate although not necessarily a costly manner. The style chosen has been that of Mexican decoration and the purity of the motive has been preserved throughout.

It will be noticed that the door leading from the room may be modified into a gate, if it is desired, or, of course could be left entirely vacant but for a portière. The panels are wood, as also the small octagon-shaped pieces making up the wainscoting; mahogany is preferable. The ceiling is made up of wood and glass, while the columns are iron, with the capitals in wood or zinc. The cornice is plaster and the ornamentation may be either flat painting or in relief, in Lincrusta-Walton or Solid Relief.

The furniture that we have given need not, of course, cover all that is permissible. The bar is purposely made small, for it should be only one of the appurtenances in a café and not the single prominent feature; the cheval glass and console, the shelves and other pieces may be considered necessities. A trophy or two, or an old gun or sword hung upon the wall, is a valuable addition and very decorative. The two tables we give on this page are intended for the café, as the style and general design is similar to that employed in the larger design.

Next month we will give the detail drawings of the bar, the partitions, and all the other movable parts of the room, and following that frequent designs for plainer cafés, restaurants, etc., etc.

BITS ABOUT TOWN.

BY FLANEUR.

THE tower as an architectural feature is not as prominent in recent residences as the tower as a part of the interior. Instead of crowning the summit, the tower, Norman-Gothic styles prevailing, holds its own from the first story and makes the conspicuous feature of the interior. These tower rooms are rarely large enough to constitute separate chambers, but make nooks and retiring places opening off of large apartments. A very novel treatment of a corner tower is seen in one of the new houses on Fifth Avenue opposite the park. The windows are lofty and set at the top with movable transoms and blinds. Suspended from the ceiling and making the ceiling of this curving space, is a large um-

brella or tent-like form of amber-tinted glass set in scale-like shapes interspersed with ornament of color. This projects, continuing its circular form into the drawing-room, into which the tower-room opens. The light is arranged to fall above the glass, rendering all its beautiful effects of color below.

MEN who buy works of art would do a good thing in emulating a collector in town, whose residence is enriched by valuable things that enter into its decoration, yet lose nothing of individual value. For example, he has a remarkable collection of Monticellis. Instead of framing these as pictures, he has them set in as panels framed by ebony moldings, in an alcove in his library. Massed in this fashion such an effect of rich gorgeous color could scarcely be obtained in any other way. In

is run through the servants' rooms and to the top of the house, so that all the heat is utilized. But to return to the appearance of these things, this group of iron pipes, wherever they run, is painted in keeping with their surroundings. Here they are red, there cream, and again are resplendent in gold. Thus they are never unsightly, and a placid sense of satisfaction would, in any case, compensate against hidden leaks and unsuspected damage subtly wrought through discreetly-covered plumbing.

THE use of metal in decoration is gaining ground. One of the most successful rooms in recent houses is a dining-room fitted up in oak, which, without waiting for the slower processes of time, is treated to a delightful greenish tone. The walls are hung in leather. As the wood is lavishly

used, and the room broken by doors, windows, and furniture, the leather is actually in panels. The ornament of these panels is a series of arches at the top, with some small ornament inside. These arches are formed of fine copper wire used in fine twisted lines and fastened with small copper nails. The copper nails are used in the ornament. The effect is chaste and very ornamental. This is added to by the wire being inevitably in relief.

TRAVELERS on the Pennsylvania road cannot but feel grateful for the new parlor-cars lately designed for them by Mr. Bruce Price. The change is radical as to decoration. The wood is oak stained an olive bronze, and given a high polish.

The panels between the beams are covered with burlap stained dark red, the only ornamentation being large dull brass nails; these even are used sparingly. The various fixtures—racks, pegs and receptacles for the electric light—are of brass and given choice forms. The chair-coverings of embossed velvet are a dark blue green, the portières are the same tint in velours, the shades of felt repeat the tint with a slight flame-like decoration here and there. The subdued harmonious tints are an agreeable addition to the comfort and ease of travel which one ought to find in a parlor-car, but which the ordinary decoration goes far to neutralize.

A PROMINENT firm of decorators has succeeded in producing a composition of plaster and asbestos paper which is proving very valuable in their work. This enables them to produce in the lightest form, fire-proof and unaffected by our variable climate, ornament in relief now so lavishly used in decoration. In some cases it is used in such attenuated shape that it is hung like wall paper. In others it is cast from Moorish perforated carvings and makes a frieze two inches and more in relief. To give some idea of what can be done, melted glue is run over embossed velours; when the glue hardens it forms a mold. Into this the plaster flows and the asbestos gives it backing. A smoking-room hung with this is then treated with metallic tints and gives the texture of the

velours in an interesting manner. A set of ceiling panels for a chamber is taken from clay models of spring flowers in the various sections of the panels. These flowers exhibit charming freshness and true artistic feeling. In the casts the ground is tinted yellow pink and the flowers are brought out in harmonious tints of blue and green. For setting, the panels, which are scarcely heavier than canvas, are fastened on to board stretchers.

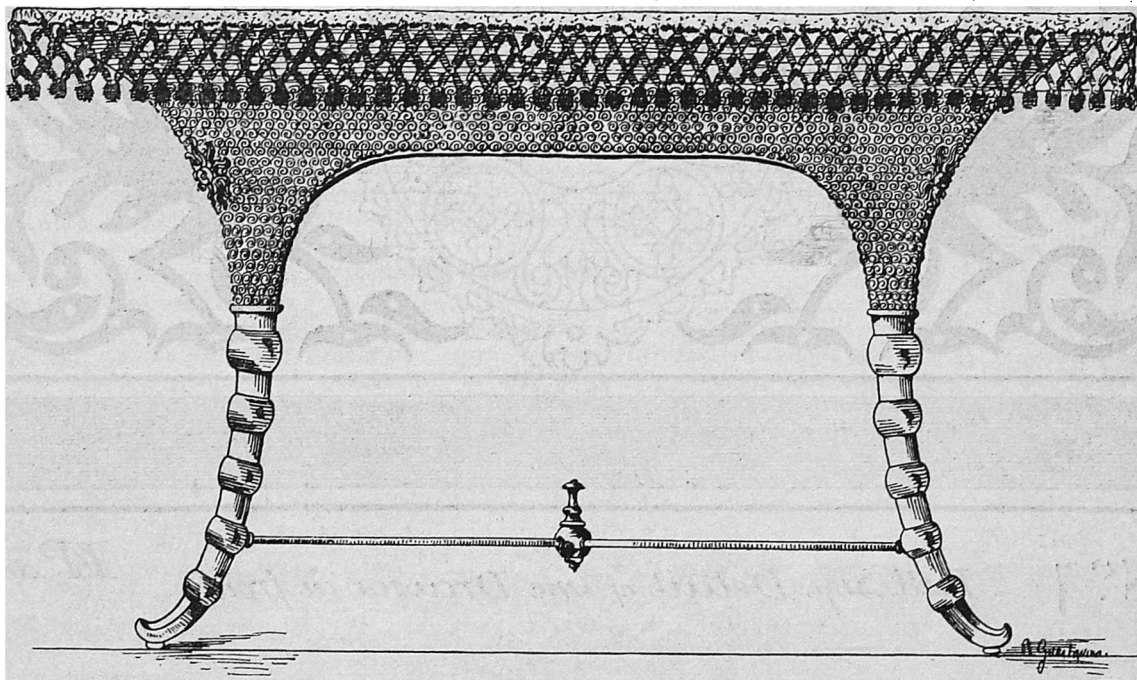


TABLE SUITABLE FOR CAFÉ, AS SHOWN ON OPPOSITE PAGE.

the same alcove which opens on to the hall, the usual door is closed, and in its place a swinging window made out of rare old pieces of German glass. Around the low book-cases of ebonized wood runs a frieze set with bronze medallions of the great names of France modeled by David d'Angers. In the drawing room the panel between the windows is set with two rare examples of Japanese carving in ivory and colored stones. Mere possession of rare works of art attracts but little attention, but utilized in this way scarcely any one is indifferent to their worth. They also help to make conversation, and in this way earn their place by entertaining guests.

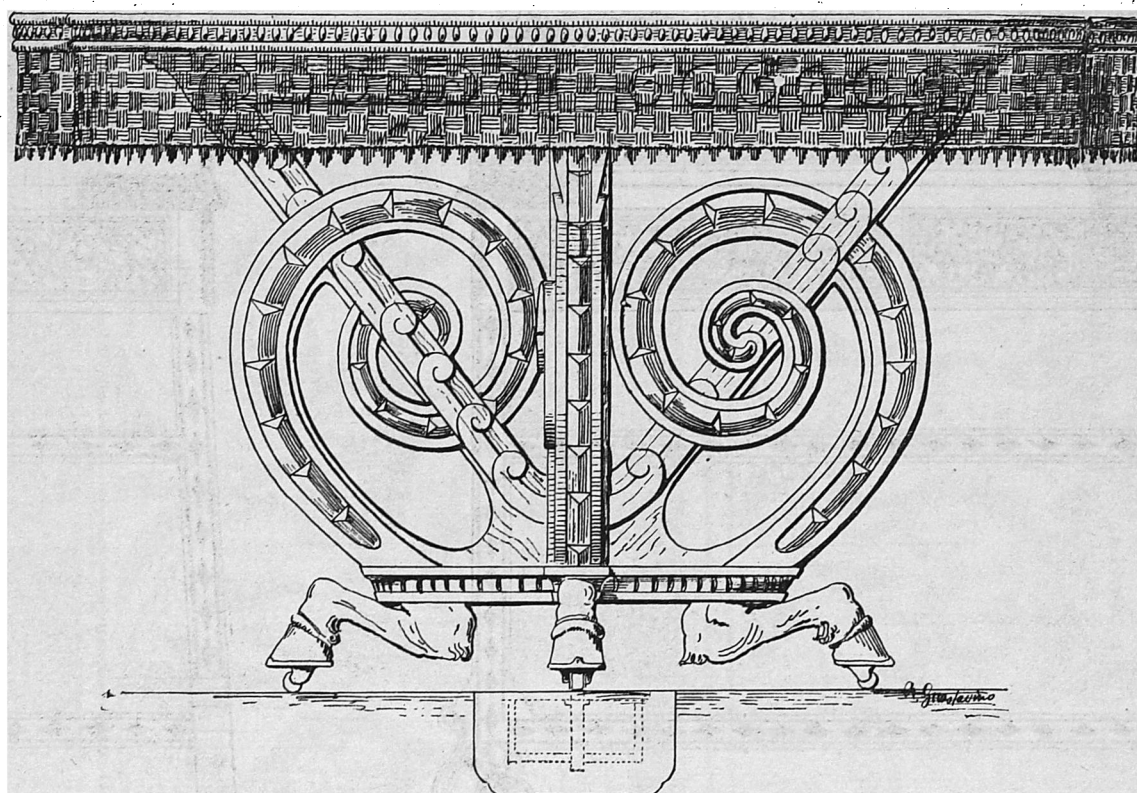


TABLE SUITABLE FOR CAFÉ, AS SHOWN ON OPPOSITE PAGE.

THE pride of an architect in a fine country house he has just completed is in the fact that every inch of the plumbing is exposed. It is not, of course, introduced into the chambers. But in the kitchen and bath-rooms the pipes are carried boldly outside of the woodwork. In addition to the water pipes a pipe is carried from furnace, in order that in winter, without extra precaution, the danger of freezing may be lessened. This also